



**R&A RULES Limited**

THE

# **RULES OF GOLF**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE



**MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION**



## **The Rules of Golf**

### **SESSION 1**

History  
Etiquette  
Basic Principles  
Definitions  
Changes for 2012

### **SESSION 2**

Rules of Golf > Rules 1 - 20



### **SESSION 3**

Rules of Golf > Rules 23 - 34  
Fun Test



# The Rules of Golf

## STIPULATED ROUND



### MATCHPLAY

round not extended  
won or tied e.g. Ryder Cup

round extended  
must be won e.g. RMGC KO's

### STROKEPLAY

winner is the player with the  
least number of strokes

ties?



## APPENDIX 1 # 10 - How to Decide Ties



# Penalties

## GENERAL PENALTY

TWO STROKES in STROKE PLAY

or

LOSS OF HOLE in MATCH PLAY

## ONE STROKE PENALTY

in STROKE PLAY is also in MATCH PLAY



## Penalties

### ONE STROKE PENALTIES

BUYING A STROKE

GHOST STROKES

LIFTING INFRINGEMENTS

[www.barryrhodes.com](http://www.barryrhodes.com)



## Penalties



### BUYING A STROKE

- 25-1: Abnormal Ground Condition
- 26-1 & -2: Ball in Water Hazard
- 27-1: Ball Lost or Out of Bounds
- 28: Ball Unplayable



## Penalties



### "GHOST" STROKES

- 14-4: Striking Ball more than once
- 16-2: Ball overhanging hole
- 18-2: Ball at Rest moved by Player
- 18-3: Ball at Rest moved by Opponent
- 19-3: Ball in Motion deflected



## Penalties

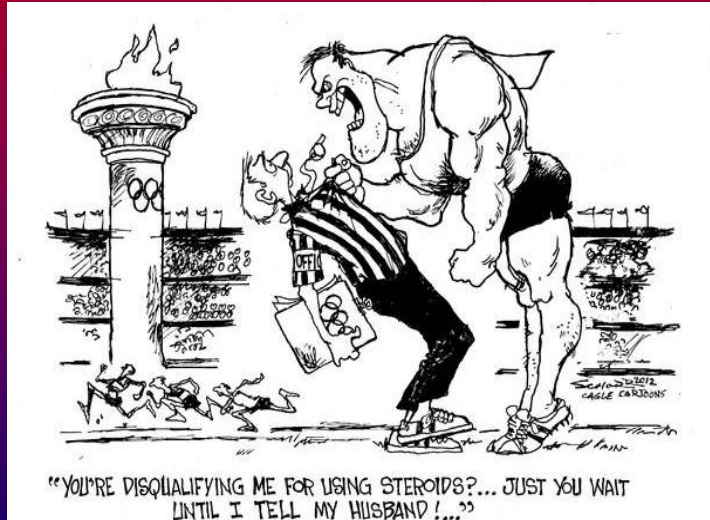


### LIFTING INFRINGEMENT

- 5-3: Ball unfit for Play
- 6-8: Discontinuance of Play
- 12-2: Identifying Ball
- 20-1: Lifting and Marking
- 20-2: Dropping and Re-dropping
- 20-3a: Placing and Re-placing
- 21: Cleaning Ball



## Penalties



## Rule 1-2 Exerting Influence on Movement of Ball or Altering Physical Conditions





## Rule 1-3 Agreement to Waive Rules



## Rule 2-1 Match Play (General)





## Rule 2-4 Concession of Match, Hole or Next Stroke



## Rule 2-5 Doubt as to Procedure; Disputes and Claims

### **MATCH PLAY** **DOUBT TO PROCEDURE**



- 1. Make claim in time**  
Before anyone tees off from the next tee  
In the case of the last hole of the match –  
before all players leave the last green
- 2. Notify your opponent that you are making a claim/want to seek a ruling**
- 3. State the facts**



## Rule 3-3 Doubt as to Procedure

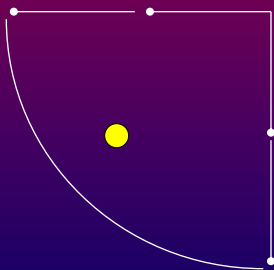


### STROKE PLAY DOUBT TO PROCEDURE

1. Can complete hole with 2 balls
2. Notify your fellow competitor or marker of your intention
3. State which ball you wish to count if the Rules permit
4. Report facts to the Committee before submitting score card



## Rule 3-3 Doubt as to Procedure

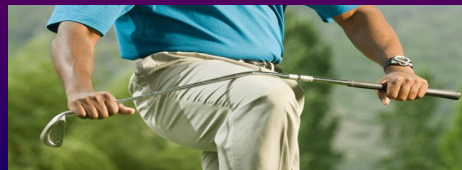






## Rule 4 Clubs

- 4-1 Form and Make of Clubs
- 4-2 Playing Characteristics Changed and Foreign Material
- 4-3 Damaged Clubs: Repair and Replacement
- 4-4 Maximum of 14 Clubs



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYV-csdgRv0>



## Rule 5-3 Ball Unfit for Play

1. Announce intention
2. Allow opponent opportunity to see process
3. Mark position
4. Do not clean ball
5. Replace ball





# Rule 6-3 Time of Starting and Groups

**ROYAL MALTA GOLF CLUB**  
**Harry Vardon Trophy**  
 Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013  
 4 Ball Aggregate Medal – Drawn Matched Partners  
 Both Scores must be entered on each hole  
 Full Handicap Allowance  
 White Tees  
 Entry Fee €5.00 (Inc. Ball Sweep)

7.30	7.40	7.50	8.00	8.10	8.20	8.30
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Tee</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Tee</b>	<b>11th Tee</b>	<b>11th Tee</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Tee</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Tee</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Tee</b>
G Lee M Grispetta D Galiba R Grossley	G Lee M Grispetta D Galiba R Grossley	C Briffa E Busutti K Woodward G Pickles	C Briffa E Busutti K Woodward G Pickles	F Wagg D Grison M Bazzan C Nersela	F Wagg D Grison M Bazzan C Nersela	
P Coleman G Giles R Bradshaw R Feenan	P Coleman G Giles R Bradshaw R Feenan	D Redfern G Fozson M Agius E Mifsud	D Redfern G Fozson M Agius E Mifsud	B Buckley M Jarvis M Hall E Dullivan	B Buckley M Jarvis M Hall E Dullivan	
L Danson A Lang J Boyle R Gullivan	L Danson A Lang J Boyle R Gullivan	M Bennett A Agius G Jones M Magro	M Bennett A Agius G Jones M Magro	A Wells P Fleg P Brian H Krimat	A Wells P Fleg P Brian H Krimat	
L Karlsson H Gray W Beck C Otahl	L Karlsson H Gray W Beck C Otahl	B Hackmesser T Jacobsen L Collins A Borg	B Hackmesser T Jacobsen L Collins A Borg			
G Edlund J Micallef I Macpherson P Stevenson	G Edlund J Micallef I Macpherson P Stevenson	S Satriano K Micallef J Lewis P Carey	S Satriano K Micallef J Lewis P Carey			
K Waddington K Borg A Holbano P Gray	K Waddington K Borg A Holbano P Gray	D Ellis V Portelli P Emmett H Klotz	D Ellis V Portelli P Emmett H Klotz	7.45 C Richards F O'Loorain H Fraenlich C Darnahan	7.45 C Richards F O'Loorain H Fraenlich C Darnahan	
N Hall D Neilson C Gullivan A Meers	N Hall D Neilson C Gullivan A Meers	H Antoni C Lewis D Rattray	H Antoni C Lewis D Rattray	7.55 E Akkerhuis A Ohaw F Busutti D Alisop	7.55 E Akkerhuis A Ohaw F Busutti D Alisop	



# Rule 6-5 (The Player's) Ball





# Rule 6-6 Scoring in Stroke Play

4!

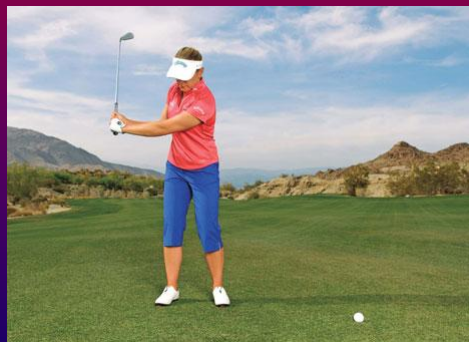
Competition: <b>SUNDAY STABLEFORD</b>		Date: <b>2-4-06</b>	Time: <b>9-08</b>									
Course	Par	SSS	Trick	Player	Club No.	11 Cap	12 Week					
White	67	66	A	<b>JOHN SMITH</b>			<b>17 17</b>					
Yellow	67	66	A									
Red	65	69	B									
Marker	Score	Hole	Mens White (Yds)	Mens Yellow (Yds)	Index	Process A	B	Win + Loss Half	Points	Ladies Red (Yds)	Par	Stroke Index
6	1	1	328	319	4	9	5	4	2	287	4	4
6	2	2	228	198	3	11	4	3	2	180	3	11
6	3	3	395	386	4	3	6	5	1	375	5	7
6	4	4	174	158	3	13	3	2	3	141	5	15
6	5	5	371	362	4	5	5	4	2	355	4	3
6	6	6	295	274	4	17	6	3	3	357	4	13
6	7	7	439	413	4	1	6	5	1	394	4	1
6	8	8	295	289	4	15	4	3	3	285	4	17
6	9	9	234	214	3	7	4	3	2	197	3	9
6	10	OUT	2756	2813	33	OUT			<b>19</b>	<b>2471</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>OUT</b>
5	10	10	453	451	2	22	6	5	1	448	5	2
5	11	11	163	155	3	10	4	3	2	166	3	18
5	12	12	290	243	4	18	4	4	2	334	4	14
5	13	13	272	259	4	14	4	3	3	249	4	12
5	14	14	155	148	3	16	3	2	3	142	3	16
5	15	15	200	191	3	8	4	3	2	180	3	10
5	16	16	509	497	5	4	6	5	2	491	5	5
5	17	17	355	353	4	12	5	4	2	350	4	8
5	18	18	395	348	4	6	5	4	2	422	4	8
5	19	OUT	2713	2645	34	IN			<b>19</b>	<b>2452</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>IN</b>
5	20	OUT	2756	2813	33	OUT			<b>19</b>	<b>2471</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>OUT</b>
5	TOTAL		6444	6258	67	TOTAL			<b>38</b>	<b>4903</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Handicap												
Nett Score												
Marker Sign	<b>DAVE JONES (DAVE JONES)</b>											
Player Signature	<b>John Smith</b>											



# Rule 7 Practice

7-1 Before or Between Rounds

7-2 During Round





## Rule 8 Advice; Indicating Line of Play

8-1 Advice

8-2 Indicating Line of Play



## Rule 9 Information as to Strokes Taken





## Rule 10 Order of Play

10-1 Match Play

10-2 Stroke Play

10-3 Provisional Ball or  
Another Ball from Teeing Ground



## Rule 11 Teeing Ground

11-1 Teeing

11-2 Tee-Markers

11-3 Ball Falling off Tee

11-4 Playing from Outside  
Teeing Ground

11-5 Playing from Wrong  
Teeing Ground





## Rule 12-1 Searching for & Identifying Ball

### ANYWHERE ON COURSE

Player may touch or bend long grass, bushes, etc but only to the extent necessary to find and identify ball

Cannot be any improvement to lie; area of intended stance; swing or line of play

Not necessarily entitled to see ball when making stroke



## Rule 12-1 Searching for Ball; Seeing Ball

### ANYWHERE ON COURSE – COVERED BY SAND

If ball cannot be found or identified because it is covered by sand:

Sand can be touched or removed

Re-create the original lie by replacing sand

If ball moves - no penalty but must be replaced and lie re-created



## Rule 12-1 Searching for Ball; Seeing Ball

### IN A HAZARD

Player may touch or move loose impediments to find or identify ball

If ball moved then penalty of 1 stroke and ball must be replaced

Once found or identified - loose impediments must be replaced

If ball moved during this process, no penalty but ball must be replaced and lie created



## Rule 12-1 Searching for Ball; Seeing Ball

### IN WATER IN WATER HAZARD

May probe with club or otherwise

If ball moved as a result of probing, no penalty and must be replaced unless player takes relief from water hazard

Otherwise penalty stroke for moving ball and ball must be replaced



## Rule 12-1 Searching for Ball; Seeing Ball

### IN / ON AN OBSTRUCTION OR ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITION

If ball accidentally moved during search,  
no penalty and ball replaced

Or, player may take relief from condition  
without replacing ball



## Rule 12-2 Identifying Ball

Player may lift ball anywhere on the course  
to identify it if necessary to do so

Must follow correct procedure







## Rule 13 Ball Played as it Lies



Ball must be played as it lies  
unless another Rule applies



## Rule 13-2 Improving Lie, Area of Intended Stance or Swing, or Line of Play

Certain actions that a player cannot take  
to improve either

- position or lie of ball
- area of intended stance or swing
- line of play or extension
- area in which ball to be dropped  
or placed



## Rule 13-2 Improving Lie, Area of Intended Stance or Swing, or Line of Play

The actions that must not be taken are:

- pressing a club on the ground
- moving, bending or breaking anything growing or fixed
- creating or eliminating irregularities of surface
- removing or pressing down sand, loose soil, replaced divots or other cut turf placed in position
- removing dew, frost or water



## Rule 13-2 Improving Lie, Area of Intended Stance or Swing, or Line of Play

But no penalty for improving if it occurs:

- in grounding the club lightly when addressing
- in fairly taking a stance (note Decision 13-2/1)
- in making a stroke or backward movement for a stroke and the stroke was made
- in creating or eliminating irregularities of surface within the teeing ground or in removing dew, frost or water from teeing ground
- on the putting green in removing sand or loose soil or in repairing damage (Rule 16-1)



## Rule 13-3 Building Stance

Player can place feet firmly  
but cannot build a stance



## Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard: Prohibited Actions

### Rule applies:

- Prior to making a stroke at a ball that is in a hazard; or
- When ball has been lifted from hazard and may be dropped or placed in the hazard

### Player must not:

- Test the condition
- Touch ground or water with hand or a club
- Touch or move a loose impediment lying in or touching the hazard



## Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard: Exceptions

### Exception 1

Provided no testing or improvement, no penalty to player in certain circumstances

### Exception 2

Player may smooth sand or soil in the hazard (provided no improvement for next stroke)

### Exception 3

Ball comes to rest in another hazard

NB: Searching for & Identifying Ball: Rule 12-1



## Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard: Note

At any time (including address or backward movement of club) player may touch with a club or otherwise:

- any obstruction
- anything declared to be an integral part of the course
- any grass, bush, tree or other growing thing (NOT loose impediments)



## Rule 14-1 Ball to be Fairly Struck at

- Must use head of Club
- Must not push, scrape or spoon



## Rule 14-2 Assistance

Player must not:

- Accept physical assistance
- Accept protection from the elements
- Allow caddie, or partner's caddie to stand on or close to an extension of the line behind the ball



## **Rule 14-3** **Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment**

Must not use artificial device or unusual equipment, or use equipment in an unusual manner:

- that might assist in making a stroke or in play
- for the purpose of gauging or measuring distance
- that might assist in gripping (but see exceptions)



## **Rule 14-4** **Striking the Ball more than Once**

If club strikes ball more than once during stroke, count stroke and add one penalty stroke

Applies regardless of number of times ball struck



## Rule 14-5 Playing Moving Ball

The player must not make stroke while ball is moving, except

- when ball is falling off tee
- when striking the ball more than once
- when ball is moving in water in a water hazard

If ball moves only after player has begun stroke or backward movement for stroke, no penalty for playing a moving ball, but Rule 18-2 may apply



## Rule 14-6 Ball Moving in Water

- Permissible to play ball that is moving in water in a water hazard
- Cannot delay to improve position of ball
- Moving ball can be lifted to take relief under water hazard Rule



## Rule 15 Substituted Ball; Wrong Ball

### 15-1 General

Must hole out with ball played from teeing ground unless that ball is:

- lost
- out of bounds
- substituted by another ball (even if not permitted)



## Rule 15-2 Substituted Ball

- May substitute ball when Rules allow
- If substituted when not permitted and make stroke with the ball
  - in match play, loss of hole
  - in stroke play, two strokes and continue with substituted ball





## Rule 15-3 Wrong Ball

### Match Play

- If stroke made with a wrong ball, penalty - loss of hole
- If player and opponent exchange balls during hole:
  - first to play wrong ball loses the hole
  - when this cannot be determined, play out hole with balls exchanged



## Rule 15-3 Wrong Ball

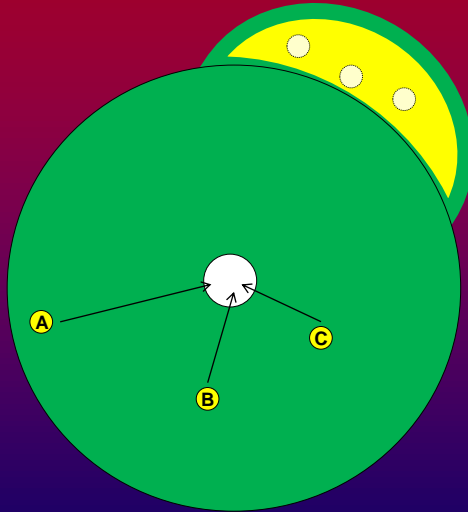
### Stroke Play

- If stroke made at wrong ball; penalty – two strokes
- Must correct mistake by playing correct ball or proceeding under Rules (e.g. if ball lost):
  - failure to correct mistake – disqualification
  - strokes made with a wrong ball do not count

In match play and stroke play, if wrong ball belongs to another player, a ball is placed on spot where it was played from



## Rule 15-3 Wrong Ball



## Rule 16-1a Touching Line of Putt

Must not be touched, except:

- loose impediments may be removed by any means, without pressing anything down
- club may be placed in front of ball when addressing, without pressing anything down
- in measuring
- in lifting a ball
- in pressing down a ball-marker
- in repairing old hole plugs or ball marks
- in removing movable obstructions



## Rule 16-1b Lifting and Cleaning Ball

- Ball on putting green may be lifted and cleaned
- Position must be marked before ball is lifted
- Ball must be replaced on the same spot



## Rule 16-1c Repair of Hole Plug; Ball Marks and Other Damage

- May repair an old hole plug or ball mark
- If ball or ball marker moved in process, no penalty
- No other damage to be repaired





## Rule 16-1d Testing Surface

- During round, cannot test any putting green by rolling ball or roughening/scraping surface
- Intent of the player is determining factor



## Rule 16-1e Standing Astride or on Line of Putt

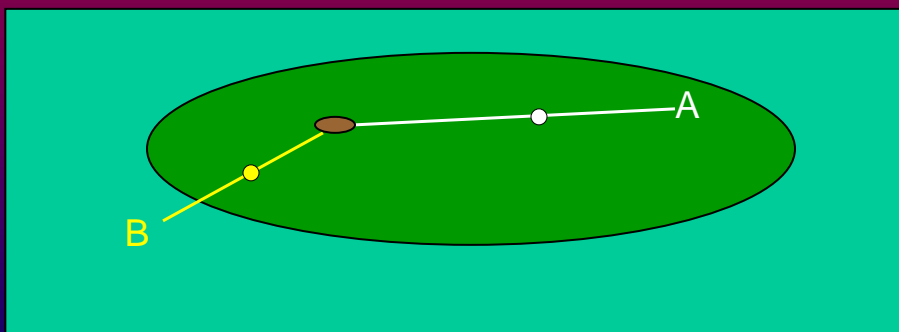


- Must not make a stroke on the putting green with stance astride or either foot touching:
  - the line of putt, or
  - an extension of the line behind the ball
- No penalty if act was:
  - inadvertent, or
  - to avoid standing on another player's line of putt



## Rule 16-1f Making Stroke whilst another Ball in Motion

If it was not his turn to play, a player (B) is penalised if he makes a stroke (from anywhere) while another ball (A) is in motion after a stroke from the putting green



## Rule 16-2 Ball Overhanging Hole

- Player must reach the hole without unreasonable delay
- Plus an additional 10 seconds to determine if ball is at rest
- If ball falls in after 10 seconds, add a penalty stroke





## Rule 17-1 Flagstick Attended, Removed Or Held up

- Player may have this done before making a stroke anywhere on the course
- Cannot be done during the stroke or while player's ball is in motion if it might influence the movement of the ball
- Notes to Rule 17-1



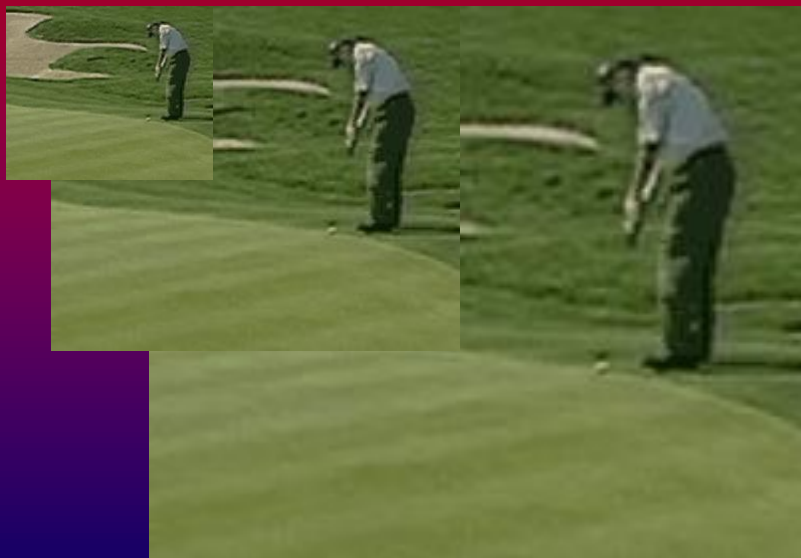
## Rule 17-2 Unauthorised Attendance

- Opponent or fellow-competitor (or their caddies) must not attend, remove or hold up flagstick without authority, if act might influence the movement of the ball
- In stroke play, if ball strikes the flagstick or the person attending or holding, the player is not penalised



## Rule 17-3 Ball Striking Flagstick or Attendant

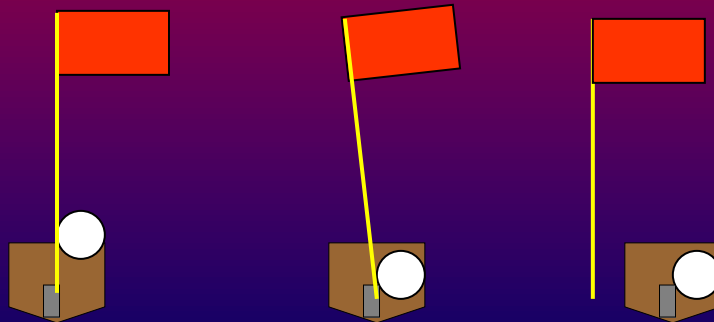
- Player's ball must not strike:
  - the flagstick when attended, removed or held up
  - the person attending or holding the flagstick
  - an unattended flagstick in the hole when the stroke is from on the putting green
- Penalty for Breach of Rule 17-3:
  - Match play – Loss of hole;
  - Stroke play – Two strokes and ball is played as it lies





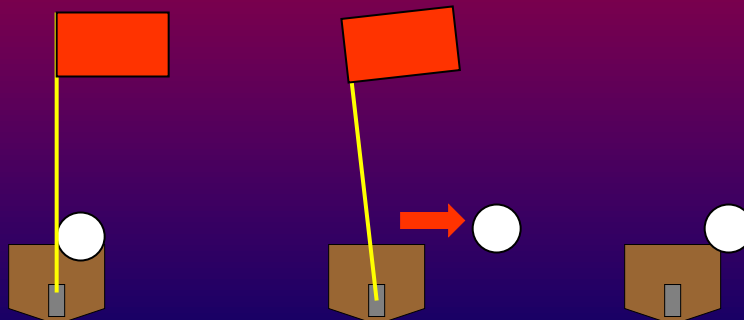
## Rule 17-4 Ball Resting Against Flagstick

- When flagstick is in hole and ball rests against it but is not holed, flagstick can be moved so that ball falls into hole
- If it does so, then have holed out with last stroke



## Rule 17-4 Ball Resting Against Flagstick

- If flagstick moved and the ball moves away from hole, then ball must be replaced on lip of hole without penalty







## Rule 18-1 Ball at Rest Moved by Outside Agency

- Is it "known or virtually" certain?
  - Yes – no penalty and ball is replaced
  - No – ball played as it lies or if not found, proceed under Rule 27-1



## Rule 18-2 Ball at Rest Moved by Player, Caddie or Equipment

- If ball in play
  - moved
  - touched purposely
  - caused to move, or
  - equipment causes the ball to move,

the player incurs a penalty of one stroke and the ball, if moved, must be replaced

- Except, ball not replaced if movement occurred after player had begun stroke or backward movement and the stroke is made
- Note the no penalty situations.



## Rule 18-2b Ball Moving After Address

- If ball in play moves after address (other than as a result of a stroke) the player is deemed to have moved the ball
- Player incurs a penalty of one stroke and ball must be replaced
- Except, ball not replaced if movement occurred after player had begun stroke or backward movement and the stroke is made



## Rule 18-3 Ball at Rest Moved by Opponent Caddie or Equipment in Match

- If ball moved during search there is no penalty and the ball is replaced (note: the player would be penalised for moving own ball during search)
- If ball moved or touched purposely, other than during search, opponent incurs a penalty of one stroke and ball is replaced



## Rule 18-4 Ball at Rest Moved by Fellow Competitor, Caddie or Equipment in Stroke



If ball moved  
there is no  
penalty and  
the ball is  
replaced



## Rule 18-5 Ball at Rest Moved by Fellow Another Ball



If ball moved  
by another ball  
in motion, the  
moved ball is  
replaced



## Rule 19-1 Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped by Outside Agency

- No penalty and play ball as it lies.
  - Note exceptions:
    - other than putting green
    - on the putting green
- If it is determined that the ball has been purposely deflected then equity applies to the player and he must play ball from where it would have come to rest



## Rule 19-2 Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped by Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

One stroke penalty and ball played as it lies  
(but note Exceptions)



**Rule 19-3**  
**Ball in Motion Deflected or**  
**Stopped by Opponent, Caddie**  
**or Equipment in **Match Play****

No penalty but player may choose to  
cancel the stroke and replay it  
or play the ball as it lies



**Rule 19-4**  
**Ball in Motion Deflected or**  
**Stopped by Fellow Competitor,**  
**Caddie or Equipment in**  
****Stroke Play****

No penalty and ball played as it lies



## Rule 19-5a Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped by another Ball

### BY ANOTHER BALL IN PLAY AND AT REST

- Player must play his ball as it lies
  - In match play, no penalty
  - In stroke play, no penalty unless both balls are on green, in which case the player making the stroke incurs a two-stroke penalty



## Rule 19-5b Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped by another Ball

### BY ANOTHER BALL IN MOTION

- Player must play his ball as it lies except if this happens on the putting green where the ball is replaced
  - Note provisions for Rule 10-1 and Rule 16-1f.



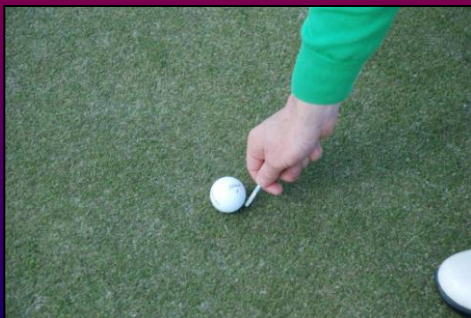
## Rule 20-1 Lifting and Marking

- Ball may be lifted by player, partner or any other person authorised by the player
- Position of ball must be marked if it is required to be replaced
- If player fails to mark when replacement required, penalty of one stroke applies
- If ball not replaced, penalty for breach:  
Match play - Loss of hole;  
Stroke play - Two strokes



## Rule 20-1 Lifting and Marking

- If ball or ball-marker accidentally moved:
  - directly attributable
  - not directly attributable



- Note recommends objects to be used to mark ball



## Rule 20-2a Dropping and Re-Dropping

### BY WHOM AND HOW

- Ball must be dropped by player
- Stand erect, hold ball at shoulder height and arm's length
- If ball dropped by any other person or in different manner > one stroke penalty
- Error can be corrected before making stroke (Rule 20-6)
- Re-drop ball if it strikes any player or any equipment



## Rule 20-2b Dropping and Re-Dropping

### WHERE TO DROP

- May be on a spot (as near as possible) or in an area



- Can correct error prior to making stroke (Rule 20-6)





## Rule 20-2c Dropping and Re-Dropping

### WHEN TO RE-DROP

9 situations when player must re-drop



- If ball when re-dropped rolls into one of the 9 listed positions, it must be placed at the spot where it first struck the course when re-dropped



## Rule 20-3a Placing and Re-placing

### BY WHOM AND WHERE

- Ball to be placed must be placed by player or partner
- Ball to be replaced must be replaced by player, partner or the person who lifted or moved it
- If ball or ball-marker accidentally moved:
  - directly attributable
  - not directly attributable



## Rule 20-3b Placing and Re-placing

### Lie of Ball to be Placed or Replaced Altered / Original Lie is known

- Except in a hazard, ball must be placed in nearest most similar lie not more than one club-length from original lie, not nearer hole and not in a hazard
- In a water hazard, as above except ball must be placed in the water hazard
- In a bunker, original lie must be recreated and ball placed in that lie



## Rule 20-3c Placing and Re-placing

### Spot not Determinable / Original Lie unknown

- Through the green, ball must be dropped as near as possible to estimated spot, but not in a hazard or on a putting green
- In a hazard, ball dropped in hazard as near as possible to estimated spot
- On the putting green, ball is placed as near as possible to spot where it lay but not in a hazard
- Note exception when resuming play when ball is always placed



## Rule 20-3d Placing and Re-placing

### Ball Fails to Come to Rest on Spot

- If ball fails to come to rest when placed, no penalty and try to place again on that spot
- If ball still fails to come to rest:
  - in a hazard, place in the hazard at nearest spot where it will come to rest that is not nearer the hole
  - outside of a hazard, ball placed at nearest spot where it will come to rest that is not nearer the hole and not in a hazard
- If ball subsequently moves, no penalty and ball played from new position



## Rule 20-4 When Ball Dropped or Placed is in Play

- Ball in play again when dropped or placed





## Rule 20-5 When Making Next Stroke from Where Previous Stroke Made

- On teeing ground: may be played from anywhere in the teeing ground and may be teed



- Through the green and in a hazard: ball must be dropped
- On the putting green: ball must be placed



## Rule 20-6 Lifting Ball Incorrectly Substituted, Dropped or Placed

- Allows player to correct incorrect substitution, dropping or placing when the ball has not yet been played
- Player may lift ball without penalty and proceed correctly



## Rule 20-7 Playing from Wrong Place

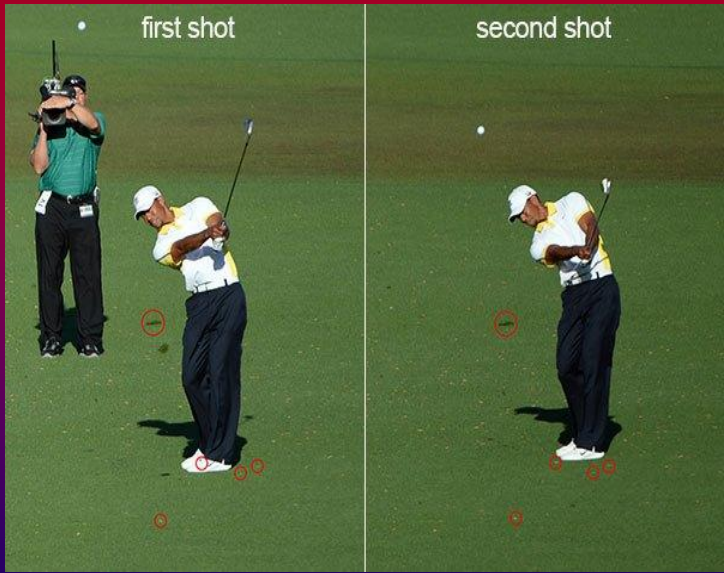
- Occurs when a player makes a stroke with ball in play
  - on a part of the course where a Rule does not permit a stroke to be played, or a ball to be dropped or placed
  - when the Rules require a dropped ball to be re-dropped or a moved ball to be replaced
- Penalty for Breach of Rule 20-7  
Match play – Loss of Hole; Stroke play – Two strokes



## Rule 20-7 Playing from Wrong Place

### Serious Breach in Stroke Play

- Occurs when playing from a wrong place has resulted in a significant advantage
- If do not correct a serious breach then disqualified
- Can correct error by playing second ball
- Must report facts to Committee (failure=disqualification)
- If not a serious breach then add two strokes to score with second ball played



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vClkFpo78Wc>



The presentation is based on the Rules of Golf as published by the R&A Rules Limited. The R&A is golf's governing body and organiser of The Open Championship. The R&A is committed to working for golf and operates with the consent of 136 organisations, from the amateur and professional game, and on behalf of over 30 million golfers in 123 countries.

**Thank you**



## ◇ **Rules of Golf**

One of the suggestions that referees are given is to never decide on a situation without referring to the Rules Book. And this can sometimes be a daunting thing even to referees let alone to the players.

*Read Definition of Stipulated Round*

## ◇ **Stipulated Round          Animation 1 of 4**

So a stipulated round is one played in correct sequence; of 18 holes or less. Furthermore, the definition says that in match play the stipulated round can be extended by the Committee and sends us to Rule 2-3.

*Read Rule 2-3.*

## ◇ **Stipulated Round          Animation 2 of 4**

Hence Rule 2-3 allows the Committee to extend the number of holes to be played in match play so as a winner can be declared. Obviously this is done in knockout competitions where a winner needs to be declared, like our Creasy Cup, for example, but not necessarily in all match play tournaments – the Ryder Cup and the Walker Cup are just but examples. What about stroke play? Who wins a stroke play competition?

*Read Rule 3-1.*

## ◇ **Stipulated Round          Animation 3 of 4**

So according to Rule 3-1 the winner is the player with the lowest gross score if it is a scratch competition; or with the lowest nett score if it is a handicap competition. But what about ties? Rule 3-1 does not provide this. Anyone?

## ◇ **Stipulated Round          Animation 4 of 4**

Indeed Paragraph 10 – Appendix 1 deals exactly with such scenarios. The point I am trying to make is that sometimes one Rule of Golf might not cover one incident totally – and it could become a complex job for a referee or a Committee to decide properly.

## ◇ **Penalties**

Before we delve into the Rules, I wanted to touch briefly on penalties. In stroke play the general penalty for a breach of the Rules is two strokes, whereas in match play it is loss of hole. The only divergence when two

strokes are not equal to loss a hole is found under Rule 11-4 when a player is penalised two strokes from playing outside the teeing ground in stroke play but does not lose the hole in match play albeit the opponent may ask the player to replay the shot.

A breach of the Rules that only incurs a one stroke penalty in stroke play also incurs a one stroke penalty in match play. So how do you remember which is which. ♦ Barry Rhodes, a golf rules fanatic, describes one stroke penalties in three categories. You apply a one stroke penalty if you want to BUY a stroke; if it is a GHOST stroke or else if it is a LIFTING infringement.

#### ♦ **Buying a Stroke**

A player needs to add a one stroke penalty if he elects to take relief outside a bunker filled with water; or if his ball is unplayable in a water hazard; or if the ball is lost or out of bounds; or if he deems that the ball is unplayable.

#### ♦ **“Ghost” Strokes**

A ball overhanging a hole and then drops in the hole after more than 10 seconds is an example of a ghost one penalty stroke. Similarly if a player strikes a ball more than once; or if a ball at rest is moved either by the player; his partner; caddie or equipment whether it is accidental or purposely; or if a ball at rest is moved by opponent, caddie or equipment in match play unless it is accidentally moved during search; or if a ball in motion is deflected e.g. when after making a stroke, a ball rebounds off an object and hits the player, then the penalty applicable is one stroke.

#### ♦ **Lifting Infringements**

Lifting infringements are normally caused by the player not following the correct procedure to check whether his ball is unfit for play or to identify it. When discontinuing play because of bad weather, a player will also receive a penalty stroke if he lifts the ball without first marking its position; similarly if a player fails to mark the position of his ball before lifting it to be replaced in marking it during putting for example; or if the ball is dropped by the wrong person or incorrectly and then played without correcting the drop; or a ball is cleaned when not permitted for example when lifting it, off the putting green, because it is interfering with or assisting play.



Apart from the one stroke, two strokes or loss of hole penalty there is yet another penalty > that of disqualification. The Committee generally applies this when it considers that there has been a serious breach of the Rules. We shall look into these penalties at another time as we now proceed into the Rules themselves.

◇ **Rule 1-2 Exerting Influence/Altering Conditions**

In the second round of the 2010 US Open, Paul Casey played a poor pitch shot up on to the 14<sup>th</sup> green. Disappointed, he looked down at the ground and without realising that his ball had begun to roll off the green and back down the slope towards him, he tapped down some raised turf that was still attached to the ground with his club. The ball continued to roll back towards him and came to rest near the turf that he had tapped down. To cut a long story short the Committee decided that Rule 1-2 was not breached as there was no intent to influence the movement of the ball and neither was Casey's action carried out with the purpose of improving the physical conditions in the area that the ball could have rolled to.

◇ **Rule 1-3 Agreement to Waive Rules**

One of the main misconceptions in match-play is that the players can agree to waive a rule of golf. I will give you an example: Player A is practicing a few putting strokes next to his ball which lies on the apron of the green. During a practice stroke he accidentally moves his ball an inch or so. He looks at Player B who confirms he saw it move. A then says to B that since they were playing match play, B can decide not to invoke the one shot penalty for A having moved a ball at rest. Player B agrees, player A replaces his ball to the original spot and play continues. If the players were aware of the Rules both would be disqualified from the competition. Rule 1-3 would not apply only if the players were ignorant of the Rules.

The stress here is on the word AGREE – Player A and Player B knew that there was a Rule breach and agreed not to apply the penalty. Agreeing is completely different from disregarding. For example: In a match without a referee player A moves his ball marker over for interference on Player B line of putt and forgot to move it back before replacing his ball and playing it. Player B decides not to make a claim about the infraction. B's caddie raised the issue with B before any shots were played from the next teeing

ground. B unilaterally, without discussion with A and without A overhearing the conversation between B and his caddie, chose to disregard the penalty incurred by A and accepted the hole as halved. Such a procedure is totally within the Rules, as a player may disregard a breach of the Rules by his opponent provided there is no agreement by the sides.

◇ **Rule 2-1 Match Play**

This takes us naturally to the next Rule in the book with its own intricacies. Unfortunately these first Rules are lacking video clips so please bear with me. OK Player A and Player B are playing a singles match against each other and on reaching the 5<sup>th</sup> tee realise that the three holes ahead were busy with groups of players waiting to tee off. An agreement to: either omit three holes and settle the match over the 15 holes; or else to proceed to hole 8 and revisit holes 5, 6 and 7 after they play the 18<sup>th</sup> would lead to their mutual disqualification. The reason lies in Rule 2-1 which states that a match is over a stipulated round and the definition of stipulated round which consists of playing the holes in their correct sequence unless otherwise authorised by the Committee.

◇ **Rule 2-4 Concession**

Rule 2-4 makes it very clear that a concession may not be declined or withdrawn. Decision 2-4/13 continues further than this and emphasises that even an implied concession is final.

***Read Decision 2-4/13.***

The Decision is emphasising that a concession is final and if B knew his Rules he would have been correct to insist that the hole was conceded. However, if the players did not know that a concession was final, continued play with B losing the hole because he played the wrong ball and then teed off on the next hole, no claim could be made regarding the concession and the hole would stand as played. In a match without a referee, the players must protect their own rights and make a proper claim to allow the Committee to become involved. If a claim is not made, the Committee has no jurisdiction. When a claim is made, the Committee must act on that claim and that claim alone. It is restricted to that incident and may not open the discussion to other issues unrelated to the claim.

The difficulty in match play is that if you are unsure of how to proceed, you do not have the option to play a second ball. In the absence of a referee or the Committee, you must continue the match without delay by proceeding in the manner that you believe is in line with the Rules. If the opponent disagrees with this, the opponent can make a claim to be considered by the Committee later. And there is way to do this:

◇ **Rule 2-5 Match Play Doubt to Procedure**

- You must make the claim in a timely manner and i.e.
  - Before any player plays from the next teeing ground or
  - In the case of the last hole of the match, before all players leave the last putting green
- You must notify your opponent that you want to seek a ruling
- You must state the facts upon which the claim or ruling is to be based

There is one last twist in all of this... a player can make a claim even after leaving the putting green of the last hole of the match if such a claim is based on facts previously unknown to him or is deemed to have been given wrong information by his opponent and if the result of the match has not been officially announced.

◇ **Rule 3-3 Stroke Play Doubt to Procedure**

Doubt to procedure in stroke play is a bit different. In the absence of a referee, you have the possibility to play a second ball should you have doubt as how to proceed. Before you do so you need to notify your fellow competitor or marker of your intention to do so; state which ball you wish to count if the Rules permit and then report the facts to the Committee before submitting the score card. Let us give an example:

◇ **Rule 3-3 Doubt as to Procedure Animation 1 of 2**

◇ A competitor's ball comes to rest in an area marked as ground under repair from which play is prohibited. Uncertain of the proper procedure to follow the player announces to his marker that he intends to play two balls – one with his original ball as it lies in the GUR and the second taking relief outside the GUR – and that he wishes to score with the original ball if the Rules permit.

◇ **Rule 3-3**                      **Doubt as to Procedure**                      **Animation 2 of 2**

He plays the original ball as it lies inside the area of ground under repair and then drops a second ball two club lengths from the nearest point of relief no nearer the hole and plays it from there. He properly reports to the Committee following his round.

***Question Procedure***

So we have a situation where the original ball was not played according to the Rules since it was played from mandatory relief ground under repair. However, the second ball dropped two club lengths, instead of one club length, from the nearest point of relief was also not played according to the Rules. In these situations, where both balls are not played by the Rules and without there being a serious breach of the Rules, the score with the original ball including 2 penalty strokes for playing from the GUR must count. If the second ball had been played in accordance with the Rules, he would have scored with the second ball.

◇ **Rule 4**                      **Clubs**

The penalty for carrying but not making a stroke with a club not conforming with the Rules; or for changing the playing characteristics of a club during a round; or for applying foreign material to the club face for the purpose of influencing the movement of a ball; is either deduction one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred in match play; or two strokes for each hole in stroke play with a maximum penalty of two holes in match play or four strokes in stroke play. If it is a stableford round then the penalties are respectively a deduction of 2 points maximum 4 points. The penalties are imposed at the conclusion of the hole in a match play or medal competition and at the conclusion of the round in stableford competition. If a club is damaged in normal course of play, then the player has the option to use the club in its damaged state for the remainder of the round; have it repaired or if it is unfit for play replace it without undue delay. If the club is damaged otherwise e.g. in anger then the club must not be subsequently used or replaced. The penalty for such a breach or for making a stroke with a non-conforming club is disqualification. The same penalties apply for carrying more than 14 clubs. I think we all remember Woosnam's faux pas in 2001 Open.

## ◇ **Link to Woosnam's incident**

John Parramore as the referee with the flight had the duty to inform the player immediately he realised that we was carrying 15 clubs. Such an immediate duty is indeed imposed on us to inform our fellow competitors or opponents.

## ◇ **Rule 5-3 Ball Unfit for Play**

The procedure to determine whether a ball is unfit for play is very similar to that that needs to be followed by a player to identify whether a ball at rest, for example in rough, is his. The player must (i) announce his intention to his fellow competitor or opponent; (ii) must mark the position; (iii) lift it giving opportunity to his fellow competitor or opponent to observe the procedure; (iv) examine the ball without cleaning it and (v) replace the ball. The penalty for not following this procedure is one stroke penalty either in stroke play or match play. The general penalty of two strokes or loss of hole in match play applies if the player substitutes a ball that did not become unfit for play on that particular hole. So for example:

A ball is unfit for play according to the definition within Rule 5-3 and the player substitutes another ball and makes a stroke at it without following the proper procedure e.g. by not marking the position of the ball before lifting it = penalty of 1 stroke.

Or a player in a situation whereby he has authority to lift and clean the ball - e.g. on a putting green or ball in GUR - substitutes his original ball that had become unfit for play and makes a stroke at it without announcing his intention to his fellow competitor or opponent = again a penalty of 1 stroke.

A player follows the correct procedure and, together with his fellow competitor or opponent, determines that the ball is unfit for play and makes a stroke at it however it then transpires that it was incorrectly determined that the ball was unfit for play then there is no penalty because the player faithfully followed the procedure that allows him to substitute another ball and the Rule reads "If it is determined etc...."

### ◇ Rule 6-3 Time of Starting

The revised rules from 2012 makes it now obligatory for the Committee to impose a two-stroke penalty for a player who arrives late for his tee time up to five minutes after his starting time. Thereafter the penalty becomes disqualification. There are a couple of misconceptions here as to what one means by a starting time. If players A, B and C are drawn together to play at 9:00 am and player C arrives even 5 seconds after 9:00 am after either player A or B has teed off then player C is late for his 9:00 am tee time. If players A, B and C scheduled to start at 9:00 am and player A tees off at 8:58; player B tees off at 8:59 and player C tees off at 9:00 am and they do so without the consent of the Committee then players A and B could be penalised two strokes for starting early. Of course there are exceptional cases for which the Committee can consider not to apply the penalty. Heavy traffic on the way to course; getting stuck in a lift; and the player's car breaking down are not one of these exceptions. Being present at a scene of an accident and providing assistance or was required to give a statement to the police would, on the other hand, be.

### ◇ Rule 6-5 The Player's Ball

There is only one sentence in the Rules of Golf that is repeated twice. Found under Rule 6.5 and under Rule 12-2 the statement says that the responsibility for playing the proper ball rests with the player. Each player should put an identification mark on his ball.

### ◇ Rule 6-6 Scoring in Stroke Play

I do not want wish to spend a lot of time on the score card – there are six papers on the MGA Website dealing on how to mark a score card properly – but basically the main things to remember are that players do not need to return a score card in a match play competition whilst in all stroke play competitions based on handicap, before the score card is returned, the competitor must ensure that the score card (apart from his name and the name of the competition) contains four main elements: his playing handicap; the gross scores against each hole; his signature and the signature of his marker. The handicap does not need to be recorded if the competition is played off scratch. The gross scores do not need to be recorded if the player is not scoring any points in stableford or par and bogey rounds.

A player is considered to have returned his score card if, for example, he has dropped it into a box or if he has left the scoring area. If the player hands his card to a Committee member and does not leave the scoring area then he can and must be allowed to make alterations to his card.

◇ **Rule 7 Practice**

I think it is quite obvious that players cannot practice on the course set up for a competition before, during or, in case of two or more rounds, between the rounds of a stroke play competition.

◇ **Rule 8 Indicating Line of Play**

Asking for information regarding distance between two objects, wind direction and club that was used after all players had hit their strokes is not asking for advice and therefore not breach of the Rules. Neither would looking into your opponent's bag to determine which club he used for his stroke. However making a statement like "I should have used a 5-iron" to another player who still had a shot to play from about the same position would be a breach of the Rules; as would any suggestion as to how to play a shot; a comment that a player is over swinging or suggesting to a player to deem his ball unplayable for example.

Indicating the line of play plays a very significant importance on the putting green. The Rule says that before but not during the stroke, a caddie or a player's partner may point out a line for putting but in so doing the putting green must not be touched. Decision 8-2b/2 gives quite a detailed explanation to this.

***Read Decision 8-2b/2***

◇ **Rule 9 Information as to Strokes Taken**

Whereas in stroke play Rule 9-3 simply says that a competitor who has incurred a penalty stroke should inform his marker as soon as practicable, Rule 9-2 for information as to strokes taken in match play is a little bit more complicated. In fact, the rule provides for loss of hole if a player gives wrong information to his opponent. Wrong information is deemed to have been given if the player: (i) fails to inform his opponent that he has incurred

a penalty; (ii) gives incorrect information during play of a hole regarding the number of strokes taken; and (iii) gives incorrect information regarding the number of strokes taken to complete a hole and this affects the opponent's understanding of the hole. The rule actually specifies when wrong information can be corrected after which the penalty of loss of hole becomes applicable. (Decisions 9-2/9 and 9-2/14 are examples of these circumstances).

#### ♦ **Rule 10**                      **Order of Play**

A strict reading of Rule 10-1 and 10-2 makes it clear that after the competitors have started play of a hole "the ball farthest from the hole is played first". Although this is not a vague statement, there is never a penalty for simply playing out of turn unless the competitors do so for the purpose of giving one of them a disadvantage. In match play if a player plays out of turn, then his opponent may either accept the outcome or may immediately require the player to cancel the stroke and play again from where the previous stroke was made in correct order of play. There is an exception to this provided by Rule 30 for best ball or better ball matches. Rule 22 additionally makes it possible that if a ball, during stroke play, is required to be lifted because it is interfering with play than the player may opt to play first rather than mark and lift his ball.

#### ♦ **Rule 11**                      **Teeing Ground**

Rule 11-2 makes it very clear that before a player makes his first stroke on the teeing ground of the hole being played the tee markers are deemed to be fixed and must not be moved. Rule 11-3 explains that if a stroke is made at a ball which is teed up and the ball is missed, then the ball is in play and it should not be re-teed again (otherwise it is 3 off the tee). Similarly if the ball is missed and then falls off the tee when it is accidentally touched at address the ball is deemed to have been moved and has to be replaced on the tee with a penalty stroke).

Rule 11-4a, for a situation when a player starting a hole outside the teeing ground in match play, is perhaps the only rule that allows the opponent to "waive" a rule of golf by giving him the possibility to either accept the stroke as played or **immediately** request the player to cancel the stroke and replay it from within the teeing ground. In stroke play the player incurs a



penalty of 2 strokes and must replay the ball from within the teeing ground. So what happens if the player after having hit his original ball from outside the teeing ground; in correcting his mistake, again tees up outside the teeing ground and makes another stroke? Does he have a ball in play and what is the penalty?

*A ball played from outside the teeing ground in stroke play in starting play of a hole is not in play. Strokes made with that ball and any subsequent strokes do not count. The penalty is two strokes regardless of the number of times a ball is played outside the teeing ground.*

◇ **Rule 12-1 Search & Identify Ball Slide 1 of 5**

Rule 12-1 is one of the Rules that have been touched by the recent amendments for 2012-2015 and has been reformatted for clarity. The Rule allows the player to touch or bend long grass, rushes, bushes etc anywhere on the course but only to the extent necessary to find or identify the ball provided that this does not improve the lie of the ball, the area of intended stance or swing or his line of play. If the ball is moved in the process then there is a general penalty of one stroke under Rule 18 (Ball at Rest Moved) except for four different situations as provided in Rule 12 itself.

◇ **Rule 12-1 Search & Identify Ball Slide 2 of 5**

Situation A: if a ball lying anywhere on the course is believed to be covered by sand to the extent that the player cannot find or identify it then the player may without penalty touch or move the sand in order to find or identify the ball. Once the ball is found or identified then the player must re-create the original lie as nearly as possible by replacing the sand. If the ball is moved during this the process then there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced and the lie re-created.

◇ **Rule 12-1 Search & Identify Ball Slide 3 of 5**

Situation B is for a ball in a hazard believed to be covered by loose impediments. Again the player is allowed to touch or move the loose impediments in order to find or identify the ball and if the ball is found or identified then the player must replace the loose impediments. The difference is that if during the process of touching or moving the loose impediments whilst searching for the ball, the ball moves then the player

incurs a penalty of one stroke. If the ball moves whilst the loose impediments are being replaced then there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced and the lie re-created.

◇ **Rule 12-1**                      **Search & Identify Ball**                      **Slide 4 of 5**

Situation C deals with searching for a ball in a water hazard whereby a player may, without penalty, probe with a club or otherwise. If the ball is moved in this process then there is no penalty for moving the ball but the ball must be replaced unless of course the player elects to proceed under Rule 26 and drop outside the hazard under penalty. If the ball was not lying in water or the ball was accidentally moved by the player other than while probing then the player incurs a penalty of one stroke for moving the ball and the ball must be replaced.

◇ **Rule 12-1**                      **Search & Identify Ball**                      **Slide 5 of 5**

Situation D then clarifies that if a ball lying in or on an obstruction or in an abnormal ground condition is accidentally moved during search there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced unless the player elects to proceed under a different Rule (*24-1b ball lies in an obstruction; 24-2b interference from an immovable obstruction; or 25-1b relief from abnormal ground conditions*).

◇ **Rule 12-2**                      **Identifying Ball**

Rule 12-2 again stresses the responsibility on a player to be able to identify his ball. It then continues with the correct procedure that a player must do before lifting a ball at rest to make sure that this is his because he cannot identify it. We have seen this procedure in an earlier rule which allowed the player to check whether his ball was unfit for play and as then the procedure is clearly that the player

- before lifting the ball must announce his intention
- mark the position of the ball
- identify the ball without cleaning it beyond the extent necessary
- allow his marker or opponent an opportunity to observe the lifting and replacement

◇ **Rule 13** **Ball Played as it Lies**

One of the main essentials in the Rules of Golf is that the ball must be played as it lies – except of course as otherwise provided in the Rules.

◇ **Rule 13-2** **Improving Lie etc.** **Slide 1 of 3**

For the ball to be played as it lies, the player must not improve or allow to be improved

- the position of lie of his ball
- the area of his intended stance or swing
- his line of play or a reasonable extension of that line beyond the hole
- the area in which he is to drop or place the ball

◇ **Rule 13-2** **Improving Lie etc.** **Slide 2 of 3**

The Rule continues to explain the actions that must not be taken by the player to improve the aforementioned conditions. The player must not

- press a club on the ground
- move, bend or break anything that is growing or fixed – including immovable obstructions and objects defining out of bounds
- create or eliminate irregularities of surface
- remove or press down sand; loose soil; replaced divots or other cut turf placed in position; or
- remove dew, frost or water

Perhaps one of the main common breaches of this rule is when a player takes a practice swing underneath a tree or near a bush. If the player accidentally knocks down leaves or breaks branches in his area of intended swing to have materially affected his area of intended swing then the player would lose the hole in match play or suffer a two stroke penalty in stroke play.

◇ **Rule 13-2** **Improving Lie etc.** **Slide 3 of 3**

The Rule also provides for situations when a player will not incur a penalty and this when the player

- grounds his club lightly when addressing the ball
- fairly takes his stance
- makes a stroke or backward movement for a stroke and continues to make the stroke

- creates or eliminates irregularities of the surface within the teeing ground
- removes dew, frost or water from the teeing ground
- removes sand or loose soil or repairs damage on the putting green

#### ◇ **Rule 13-3 Building Stance**

Whilst Decision 13-2/1 gives examples of what would constitute fairly taking a stance and Rule 16-1 then clarifies what kind of damage can be repaired on the putting green, I think I will just let the videos do the talking of what would be considering building a stance and therefore in breach of the Rules.

#### ◇ **Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard Prohibited Actions**

Prior to making a stroke at ball that is in a hazard or when a ball has been lifted from a hazard and is going to be dropped or placed in the hazard, a player must not

- test the condition of the hazard
- touch the ground or water with hand or a club
- touch or move a loose impediment lying in or touching the hazard

#### ◇ **Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard Exceptions**

Apart from the provisions that we have just gone through under Rule 12-1, there are further logical exceptions also in this Rule. Provided nothing is done that constitutes testing the condition of the hazard or improving the lie of the ball there is no penalty if the player touches the ground or loose impediments in any hazard as result of or to prevent falling; in removing an obstruction or in marking the position of, retrieving, lifting, placing or replacing a ball under any Rule.

The player may also, at any time, smooth sand or soil in a hazard provided that this done for the sole purpose of caring for the course and nothing is done to breach Rule 13-2 with respect to the next stroke. And the Rule does not apply if a player makes a stroke from a hazard and the ball comes to rest in another hazard.

After reviewing the tape and speaking with Rory, the Committee did not feel his actions after playing his shot from the bunker amounted to kicking

the ground but, rather, was considered to be smoothing the sand as permitted under Exception 2 to Rule 13.

◇ **Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard Note**

Finally there is an additional note to the Rule which provides that at any time (including address or backward movement of club) player may touch with a club or otherwise:

- any obstruction
- anything declared to be an integral part of the course
- any grass, bush, tree or other growing thing

◇ **Rule 14-1 Ball to be Fairly Struck at**

I think it is obvious that the ball must be fairly struck at, with the head of the Club. Any side of the head of the club can be used but the ball the must be fairly struck at and not pushed. Pushing would be a stroke that is similar to one that is used to hit a ball in billiards for example. And it must be the head...

◇ **Rule 14-2 Assistance**

Rule 14 further provides that the player must not make a stroke whilst accepting physical assistance or protection from the elements and a player must not make a stroke with his partner or either of their caddies positioned on or close to an extension of the line of play or line of putt.

◇ **Rule 14-3 Artificial Devices**

The use of a device that measures distance only and does not for example gauge elevation or wind direction and speed is still subject to its possible use in a competition via a Local Rule made by the Committee otherwise its use would mean disqualification. The rule allows the use of a glove; a handkerchief or towel wrapped around the grip and the use of resin, powder or drying agents to assist the player to have a proper grip of the club.

◇ **Rule 14-4 Striking the Ball more than Once**

If a club strikes the ball more than once during a stroke; the stroke is counted and a penalty stroke is added regardless the number of times the ball is hit in that stroke.

◇ **Rule 14-5** **Playing Moving Ball**

If a player makes a stroke at his ball while this is still moving then the player loses the hole in match play or incurs a two stroke penalty in stroke play. If a ball still not in play on its tee within the teeing ground, moves by falling of its tee and the stroke is made there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies. If the ball is struck more than once then the stroke counts and there is a penalty of one stroke. The player is allowed to take a stroke at a ball that is moving in water in a water hazard.

◇ **Rule 14-6** **Ball Moving in Water**

As just mentioned a player may make a stroke at a ball that is moving in water in a water hazard but in so doing he cannot delay taking such a stroke in an effort to allow the wind or the current to improve the position of the ball. Of course the player may always decide to lift a ball moving in water and continues under the water hazard rule.

◇ **Rule 15** **Substituted Ball**

There is no general easily written principle in the Rules when a ball may be permissibly substituted. However logic will usually get the correct answer if one starts with the idea that the Rules say finish the hole with the ball you played from the teeing ground, unless the original ball is lost; out of bounds; in a water hazard; unplayable; unfit for play or not immediately recoverable.

◇ **Rule 15-2** **Substituted Ball**

If the player makes a stroke with a substituted ball when not permitted then in match play the hole is lost and in stroke play, the player incurs a penalty of two strokes and must continue with the substituted ball.

◇ **Rule 15-3** **Wrong Ball** **Slide 1 of 3**

This same penalties apply when a player makes a stroke at a wrong ball i.e. any ball other than the player's own ball in play; a player's provisional ball or second ball played by the player under Rule 3-3 (Doubt to Procedure) or Rule 20-7c (Playing from Wrong Place).

◇ **Rule 15-3**                      **Wrong Ball**    **Slide 2 of 3**

So whilst in match play the penalty is loss of hole, in stroke play the penalty is two strokes and the player must correct the mistake otherwise he will be disqualified. One thing to remember is that any strokes made with a wrong ball do not count.

◇ **Rule 15-3**                      **Wrong Ball**    **Slide 3 of 3**

To try and understand the difference between a substituted ball and a wrong ball I will offer an example: In stroke play on a par 4 hole, A, B and C play their third shots from the fairway to an elevated green thought to be 150 yards away. They do not see their balls come to rest but are certain that they are on the green, A to the left; B in the centre and C to the right. When they arrive at the green, there are three balls on the green: ◇ one to the left (which A thinks is his); ◇ one in the centre (which B thinks is his) and ◇ one to the right (which of course C thinks is his).

Without lifting the ball, ◇ A makes a stroke at the ball to the left which is holed. B marks; lifts the ball in the centre; cleans it; replaces it and ◇ plays into the hole. C marks; lifts the ball to the right, deems it unfit; shows it to his fellow competitors who agree; substitutes another ball from his pocket; places it on the spot where the other ball lay to prior to lifting and ◇ plays it into the hole.

◇ They congratulate each other for their one putt to make par until the ◇ course superintendent arrives at that moment and tells the players that all three balls they struck from the fairway are buried in the back greenside bunker ◇ and all three balls they found on the green are range balls from the nearby practice tee. He apologises for the fact that the 150 yard marker is inaccurate and is probably about 100 yards from the centre of the green which explains why their balls are in the back bunker. Bruce takes the three range balls and hurriedly exits the scene. What now?

The easiest one is A. A played a **wrong** ball and must correct his error by playing the proper ball in the back bunker. His putt stroke does not count but he incurs a two stroke penalty to play six out of the bunker.

By marking, lifting and placing a ball, B and C **substituted** a ball (B the practice ball and C the ball from his pocket) for their original balls by placing a substituted ball on the putting green. As soon as players B and C made a stroke at their balls on the green the substituted balls became the balls in play and they played from the wrong place and both incur a penalty of two strokes. However this would be considered a serious breach of the Rules and must be corrected before they proceed to the next teeing ground. Since the substituted ball became the ball in play then players B and C had to go back to the fairway and play another ball under a stroke and distance making their score six before they re-play their shot from the fairway. Addio pars!

If either B or C had discovered their mistakes before making a stroke at the substituted balls then they could have corrected their errors by playing the original balls from the back bunker without any penalty incurred. The two key points in this situation are (1) the practice ball that A played was not in play and (2) the balls that B and C played were put into play by them. This is why A played a wrong ball and both B and C played substituted balls.

#### ♦ **Rule 16-1a Touching Line of Putt**

Rule 16 is perhaps a little bit easier. The line of putt must not be touched except to remove loose impediments; whilst addressing the ball; in measuring; in marking and lifting a ball; in pressing down a ball-marker; in repairing old hole plugs and ball marks and in removing movable obstructions.

#### ♦ **Rule 16-1b Lifting and Cleaning Ball**

As we know the ball may be lifted and cleaned when it is on the putting green on the proviso that its position has been marked. The provision in the note to Rule 20-1 recommends how a ball should be marked by saying that “the position of a ball to be lifted should be marked by placing a ball-marker, a small coin or other similar object immediately behind the ball”. Although a player is not penalised by using a dissimilar object as he would not be penalised if he marks the ball to the side, such a process is not encouraged. When moving a ball or ball-marker to the side to prevent it from interfering from another player’s stance or stroke the player may measure either from the side of the ball or the ball-marker.



◇ **Rule 16-1c**                    **Repair of Hole Plug; etc**

Perhaps the main concern with Rule 16 is when players tap down spike marks on their line of putt, the penalty of which is loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play. Interestingly enough the paragraph in 16-1c does not refer to ball mark as such but says that the player may repair damage to the putting green caused by the impact of a ball. Perhaps it is this action that we see when we watch the professional game on television. The rule is quite specific in that only old hole plugs and damage caused by the impact of a ball may be repaired and no other. Scuff marks and damage caused to the greens by mole crickets, for example, must not be repaired or pressed down. At the RMGC mole cricket damage is actually covered by the local rules whereby the player cannot repair the damage but can get relieve on his line of putt.

◇ **Rule 16-1d**                    **Testing Surface**

I think that the prohibition for a player to test the surface of any putting green during a stipulated round is quite comprehensible.

◇ **Rule 16-1e**                    **Standing Astride or on Line of Putt**

I think it is also quite clear that the player is excluded to make a stroke with stance astride or either foot touching the line of putt. An inadvertent action which does gain any advantage to the player would be permissible.

◇ **Rule 16-1f**                    **Stroke whilst another Ball in Motion**

A player must not make a stroke while another ball is in motion after a stroke on the putting green and the penalty would be two strokes or loss of hole unless of course it was the player's turn to play in the first instance.

◇ **Rule 16-2**                    **Ball overhanging Hole**

When a ball overhangs the hole there is quite a clear process of what should happen. But even the professionals can get this wrong sometimes and the next three clips should make it quite clear of what is wrong and what is right.

◇ **Rule 17-1**                    **Flagstick Attended, etc.**

The main word in Rule 17-1 is before. If the flagstick is not attended, removed or held up before the player makes a stroke it must not be

attended, removed or held up during the stroke or while the player's ball is in motion if doing so might influence the movement of the ball. The notes under 17-1 explain three scenarios:

1: If the flagstick is in the hole and anyone stands near it while a stroke is being made, then he is deemed to be attending the flagstick whether verbally clearly so expressed or not;

2: If prior to the stroke, the flagstick is attended, removed or held up by anyone with the player's knowledge and the player makes no objection, then the player is deemed to have authorised it;

3: If anyone attends or holds up the flagstick while a stroke is being made, he is deemed to be attending the flagstick until the ball comes to rest.

◇ **Rule 17-2**                      **Unauthorised Attendance**

If the action of attending, removing or holding up the flagstick happens without the player's authority or prior knowledge and the act might influence the movement of the ball: in match play the opponent loses the hole whilst in stroke play it will be a two stroke penalty for the fellow competitor. If this happens in stroke play, the player's ball is played as it lies except that if the stroke was made on the putting green, the stroke is cancelled and the ball must be replaced and replayed.

◇ **Rule 17-3**                      **Authorised Attendance**

The scenario changes if the player has authorised or has knowledge that the flagstick is attended, removed or held up. In such instances, the player's ball must not strike the flagstick or the person attending or holding the flagstick and of course we know the consequences of hitting the flagstick in the hole when the stroke is from the putting green.

◇ **putting green enlarged photo**

◇ **Rule 17-4**                      **Ball Resting against Flagstick**                      **Slide 1 of 2**

A ball resting against a flagstick is not holed until it is at rest within the circumference of the hole and all of it is below the level of the lip of the hole. In such a circumstance the player can adjust the flagstick.

◇ **Rule 17-4**                      **Ball Resting against Flagstick**                      **Slide 2 of 2**

If the ball falls into the hole then the player is considered to have holed out with the last stroke but if the ball moves away from the hole then the player must replace the ball on the lip of the hole without penalty.

◇ **Rule 18-1**                      **Ball at Rest Moved by Outside Agency**

It is a question of fact whether a ball has been moved by an outside agency. In order to apply this Rule, it must be known or virtually certain that an outside agency has moved the ball. In the absence of such knowledge or certainty the player must play the ball as it lies or, if the ball is not found, proceed under Rule 27-1 stroke and distance.

◇ **Rule 18-2**                      **Ball at Rest Moved by Player, etc.**

Rule 18-2a lists seven Rules which between them include ten situations where a player does not incur a penalty for moving a ball at rest, provided the ball is replaced. The first four situations are governed by Rule 12-1 and include the four different types of searching that we saw earlier on in this presentation and i.e. in searching for ball covered by sand; in the replacement of loose impediments moved in a hazard after finding or identifying a ball; in probing for a ball lying in water in a water hazard or in searching for a ball in an obstruction or an abnormal ground condition. The remaining six situations expressly state that the movement of the ball is not subject to penalty provided that the movement of the ball is “directly attributable” to the specific act authorised by the applicable Rule. So there is no penalty if ball moves whilst repairing a hole plug or ball mark (Rule 12-1); in measuring (Rule 18-6); in lifting a ball when permitted under a Rule (Rule 20-1); in placing or replacing a ball under a Rule (Rule 20-3a); in removing a loose impediment on the putting green (Rule 23-1) and in removing a movable obstruction (Rule 24-1).

David Love’s situation is covered by Decision 18-2a/20 (read it). So Loves incurs one stroke penalty from moving his ball at rest and then an extra two stroke penalty for not replacing it and playing from the wrong place. He fails short of being disqualified because he did not commit a serious breach.

◇ **Rule 18-2b** **Ball Moving after Address**

The next two situations especially Padriag's incident in the Masters led to a change in Rule 18-2b and in the definition of addressing the ball. Addressing the ball is now defined as the act of grounding the club immediately in front or immediately behind the ball whether or not the player has taken his stance. The Rules therefore also no longer provide for a player addressing a ball in a hazard.

The player incurs a penalty of one stroke if his ball in play moves (without making a stroke) after he has addressed it. The ball must be replaced. The new exception to the Rule cancels the application of the Rule if it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause his ball to move.

Padraig according to the Rules at that time incurred a penalty of one stroke and had to replace the ball. With the Rules as they stand today with a virtual certainty that the player did not cause the ball to move then he would have incurred no penalty and the ball would have to be played from its new position.

Kerr's situation is a very difficult call to make. Forget what the broadcasters were saying about the player taking her stance because that does not apply any more. What the footage shows is that the player had difficulty in getting the ball to remain at rest when replacing it due to the slope of the green. There is a strong possibility that the ball could have moved on its own without anyone being anywhere near it – did you notice the gusts of wind? However, it is also a fact that the ball moves almost immediately after the player addresses the ball by grounding her club and the player is presumed to have caused the ball to move unless there is strong evidence against this. Remember that we have the possibility to see the incident. Imagine the difficulty a referee has in making a decision and not having the possibility to see what happened.

◇ **Rule 18-3** **Ball at Rest Moved by Opponent, etc.**

The next three slides speak for themselves. If a ball at rest is moved by opponent, his caddie or his equipment in match play there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced. Other than during a search, if the ball is

moved or touched purposely then the opponent receives a penalty of one stroke.

◇ **Rule 18-4 Ball at Rest Moved by Fellow Competitor, etc.**

This is slightly different than in stroke play as the ball is replaced without the fellow competitor receiving a penalty whether this was done during a search or not.

◇ **Rule 18-5 Ball at Rest Moved by Another Ball**

And to conclude the rule if a player's ball is moved by another ball in motion then the player must replace his ball. If it is impossible to determine the spot where the ball is to be replaced then the provisions of Rule 20-3c come into play and we shall see what these are later.

◇ **Rule 19-1 Ball in Motion Deflected etc by Outside Agency**

If the English language is not interesting enough at times, then the Rules of Golf makes sure that it does become amusing. Rule 19-1 adds an adjective to outside agencies to describe them as moving or animate. So what is the difference between a moving and an animate outside agency? Within the context of the Rules, the word animate refers to life within the animal kingdom such as people, cats and dogs and even caddies as distinct from plant life, such as leaves, grasses or trees. So as an example, if a fellow competitor's caddie, who is an outside agency, moves across the line of putt and deflects the player's ball, the caddie would count for both moving and animate, so it is immaterial whether he is moving or stopped at the time that he deflects a ball for Rule 19-1b to apply and the stroke is therefore cancelled and the ball replaced. However, if a ball in motion after a stroke on the putting green were to be deflected by a growing mushroom, the deflection is by an outside agency which is not animate and Rule 19-1 says that the deflected ball would be played as it lies.

If a ball, after a stroke on the putting green, is deflected by a wind-blown leaf, which is an outside agency moving across the line of putt, Rule 19-1b would require a replay as the leaf is a moving outside agency. If the ball is however deflected by a stationary leaf then Rule 19-1 applies such that the deflected ball would be played as it lies.

So for Rule 19-1b to apply, if an outside agency is not moving – then it must be animate. Be careful though a worm or an insect or the like is not considered as animate enough.

As a matter of interest, what would you do if a mushroom is growing on your line of putt?

***Decision 16-1a/15.***

**◇ Rule 19-2 Ball in Motion Deflected by Player etc.**

Under Rule 19-2 there is a penalty of one stroke if a ball in motion is deflected or stopped by the player, his partner, their caddies or equipment. The exceptions are for a stroke made on the putting green when the ball hits the flagstick for which there is a two-stroke penalty or loss of hole in match play and for a ball to be dropped under Rule 20 when the ball gets to be re-dropped without penalty.

**◇ Rule 19-3 Ball in Motion Deflected by Opponent etc.**

If the ball in motion is accidentally deflected or stopped by an opponent, his caddie or equipment in match play then there is no penalty and the player has the option of either playing the ball as it lies or cancel the stroke and replay it.

**◇ Rule 19-4 Ball in Motion Deflected by Fellow Competitor**

If this happens in stroke play, again there is no penalty and the ball is played as it lies.

**◇ Rule 19-5a Ball in Motion Deflected by another Ball at Rest**

To conclude Rule 19 if a ball in motion is deflected or stopped by another ball in play and at rest then the ball must be played as it lies and there is no penalty unless both balls were on the green in which case in stroke play the player will receive a two-stroke penalty. What is interesting is that there is no such penalty in match play.

**◇ Rule 19-5b Ball in Motion Deflected by Ball in Motion**

If the player's ball in motion is deflected or stopped by another ball also in motion, then the ball is played as it lies. If this should occur on the putting green then the player must replace and replay his ball from its original at

rest position on the green. The note to Rule 19-5 makes it clear that nothing in the Rule overrides the provisions of Rule 10-1 – order of play in match play – and those of Rule 16-1f – making a stroke while another ball is in motion on the putting green.

◇ **Rule 20-1**                      **Lifting and Marking**                      **Slide 1 of 2**

In Rule 20 we again see some similarities to and interactions with other Rules. If the ball, after being lifted has to be replaced, then its position must be marked. A player would need to mark the position of his ball either when it is lifted on the putting green, or because it interferes with play, or to identify it, or to check if it is fit for play. If the player fails to mark the ball prior to lifting it in such circumstances then he incurs a penalty of one stroke. If he fails to replace it then he incurs a total penalty of two strokes or loss of hole in match play. Of course, the player does not need to mark his ball if this is being lifted from out of bounds or a water hazard e.g.

The rule specifically explains that the ball may be lifted by the player, partner or any other person authorised by the player. So what happens if the ball is lifted albeit marked without authority either in match play or in stroke play? We see this very often happening on the putting green. Well this is when the Rules interact with Rule 18 taking over from where Rule 20 leaves it. If the unauthorised lifting happens in match play then the opponent receives a penalty of one stroke (18-3b); if it happens in stroke play the fellow competitor receives no penalty but the ball must be replaced.

◇ **Rule 20-1**                      **Lifting and Marking**                      **Slide 2 of 2**

The note to the Rule gives examples of objects that should be used to mark the position of the ball and it also explains that if the marker interferes with the play it must be moved to one side by one or more club head lengths. If a ball or a ball marker is accidentally moved in the process of lifting the ball or marking its position there is no penalty and the ball or ball marker must be replaced. The cause must be directly attributable to the specific act of marking the position or lifting the ball otherwise one stroke penalty will apply.

◇ **Rule 20-2a Dropping and re-Dropping - By Whom and How**

The act of dropping a ball under the Rules is really simple. It must be dropped by the player himself; he must stand erect; hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop it. If it is done in any other manner and the act is not corrected before a stroke is made then the player obtains a stroke penalty for his trouble. If the ball, when dropped, touches any person or the equipment of any player before or after it strikes a part of the course or before it comes to rest then the ball must be re-dropped.

◇ **Rule 20-2b Dropping and re-Dropping - Where**

So we saw by whom and how. The next thing is where. Well it must be dropped as near as possible to a specific spot (for example when substituting a ball) or within an area (for example within two club lengths) and when so doing never nearer the hole than where the original ball lay.

◇ **Rule 20-2c When to Re-Drop**

Apart from the situation mentioned previously of having to re-drop when the ball touches any person or the equipment of any player before or after it strikes a part of the course or before it comes to rest, to make this Rule even more interesting, there are 9 situations when the player must re-drop without penalty and this. The 9 situations are:

1. Rolls into and comes to rest in a hazard
2. Rolls out of and comes to rest outside a hazard
3. Rolls onto and comes to rest on a putting green
4. Rolls and comes to rest out of bounds
5. Rolls to and come to rest in a position where there is interference by the condition from which relief was taken
6. Rolls and comes to rest more than two club lengths from where it first struck part of the course
7. Rolls and come to rest nearer the hole than its original position
8. Rolls and come to rest nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief
9. Rolls and come to rest nearer the hole than the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard or lateral water hazard



If the ball when re-dropped rolls into any of the listed positions then it must be placed as near as possible to the spot where it first struck a part of the course when re-dropped.

Now imagine this. A player's ball comes to rest against a boundary (OOB) stake. He deems the ball unplayable and drops it within two club lengths of where the ball originally lay. After the ball has been at rest, it rolls and comes to rest out of bounds. What options does the player have?

***Dec. 20-2c/3.5***

**◇ Rule 20-3a Placing and Re-Placing – By Whom and Where**

The act of replacing a ball specifically refers to a situation where the ball has been lifted or moved. If the ball has been lifted or moved by another person than that person can replace the ball. Otherwise the ball must be replaced by the player or his partner. In all circumstances where a ball has to be placed this must be done by the player himself or his partner.

**◇ Rule 20-3b Placing and Re-Placing – Lie Altered**

If the original lie of the ball to be placed or replaced has been altered then the player except in a hazard or in a bunker must place his ball in the nearest lie most similar to the original lie that is not more than one club length from the original lie, not nearer the hole and not in a hazard. The same procedure applies if the player has to place or replace his ball in a water hazard except of course that the ball must be placed in the water hazard. In a bunker, the original lie must be recreated and the ball placed in that lie.

**◇ Rule 20-3c Placing and Re-Placing – Lie Unknown**

If it is impossible to determine the spot where the ball is to be placed or replaced or if the original lie is not known then through the green the ball must be dropped as near as possible to the estimate spot; similar scenario for a hazard; but on the putting green the ball must be placed. The exception is when resuming play when, if the spot where the ball is to be placed is impossible to determine, it must be estimated and the ball placed on the estimated spot.

◇ **Rule 20-3d** **Placing and Re-Placing – Ball fails to come to rest**

If the ball when placed fails to come to rest on spot on which it was placed, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced. If it still fails to come to rest on that spot then it must be placed at the nearest spot where it can be placed at rest that is not nearer the hole. If the ball was in a hazard then the spot must be in the hazard. If the ball was outside a hazard then the spot must be outside the hazard. If a ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies from its new position.

◇ **Rule 20-4** **When Ball Dropped or Placed in Play**

If the player's ball in play has been lifted, it is again in play when dropped or placed. Similarly a substituted ball becomes the ball in play when it has been dropped or placed. However if a ball has been incorrectly substituted, dropped or placed in a wrong place or otherwise not in accordance with the Rules but not played then it may be lifted, without penalty, and the player must then proceed correctly.

◇ **Rule 20-5** **Stroke and Distance**

When a player elects or is required to make his next stroke from where a previous stroke was made, he must proceed as follows:

On the teeing ground > the ball must be played from within the teeing ground; from anywhere within the teeing ground and may be teed;

Through the green and in a hazard > the ball must be dropped and on the putting green the ball to be played must be placed on the putting green.

◇ **Rule 20-7** **Playing from Wrong Place** **Slide 1 of 2**

And finally Rule 20 provides for the eventuality of making a stroke at a ball in play from the wrong place. A player is deemed to have played from a wrong place if he made a stroke at his ball in play either on a part of the course where the Rules do not permit a stroke to be made or a ball to be dropped or placed; or when the Rules require a dropped ball to be re-dropped or a moved ball to be replaced. In match play the penalty is immediately loss of hole.

◇ **Rule 20-7**                      **Playing from Wrong Place**                      **Slide 1 of 2**

In stroke play the player incurs a penalty of two strokes and must play out the hole with the ball played from the wrong place without correcting his error provided he has not committed a serious breach. If the player becomes aware that he has committed a serious breach then before making a stroke from the next teeing ground he must play out the hole with a second ball played in accordance with the Rules. He then must report the facts to the Committee who must determine whether the competitor committed a serious breach with his first ball. If he has, the score with the second ball counts plus a penalty of two strokes. If the player fails to follow the procedure above and the Committee deems that by playing his original ball the player gained a significant advantage and therefore committed a serious breach, then the player will be disqualified.

◇ ***Discuss Tiger Woods Incident at the Masters 2013.***

**THANK YOU**